

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Patricia A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: pplunker@usgs.gov

Micheal George (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7962
Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999
Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 1999

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in September was 310,079 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 10,336 tons, 1% lower than that of the previous month but slightly above the rate for September 1998.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 68.6 cents per pound in August to 71.3 cents per pound in September, according to Platt's Metals Week. According to American Metal Market, the buying price range for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap held steady at 48 to 50 cents per pound during the month of September. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's increased from 52.2 cents per pound in August to 54.7 cents per pound in September.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to 70.8 cents per pound in October. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBC's increased twice during the month of October. On October 6, the

price range increased to 53 to 55 cents per pound. On October 21, the UBC price range increased and narrowed at 55 to 56 cents per pound. The price remained at this level through the end of the month.

New USGS Publication

Metal Prices in the United States Through 1998 is now available through the Government Printing Office (GPO). This USGS report provides an extended price history for 44 metals. Each chapter includes a graph depicting annual current and 1992 constant dollar prices from 1959 through 1998, where available; a list of significant events that affected prices; a brief discussion of the metal and its history; and one or more tables that list current dollar prices. The publication may be ordered from the GPO web site at URL http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/sale.html or by calling 202-512-1800 and requesting the publication by its stock number (024-004-02467-4). Individual chapters are available electronically at the USGS minerals information web site (see above for the URL address).

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks, end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1998 5/	3,713	1,950	1,500	3,440	2,400	649	3,050	10,200	1,930
1998:									
September	309	171	118	289	198	53	251	849	1,860
October	315	171	122	293	198	54	253	860	1,870
November	307	161	117	279	189	55	244	829	1,870
December	317	165	107	272	177	51	229	818	1,930
January-September	2,774	1,400	1,080	2,480	1,830	489	2,320	7,580	1,860
1999:									
January	315	163	107	270	191	58	248	833	1,860
February	287	164	112	276	200	54	254	817	1,780
March	320	181	120	300	240	62	302	922	1,810
April	309	181	113	295	311	63	374	977	1,810
May	319	172	119	292	281	67	348	959	1,810
June	310	177	119	297	258	63	321	928 r/	1,810
July	319	168	118	286	213	62	275	880 r/	1,860 r/
August	324	177 r/	119	296	219	65	284	904	1,880
September	310	168	122	290	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	2,813	1,550	1,050	2,600	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; 1998 data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1999 data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

5/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1998 2/	2,290	1,670	1,290	1,140	591	550	80	70	17	17	4,270	3,440
1998:												
September	173	133	106	94	58	54	8	7	1	1	346	289
October	176	135	115	102	50	46	10	9	1	1	351	293
November	175	134	106	94	46	42	8	7	(3/)	(3/)	335	279
December	170	129	105	94	45	42	8	7	1	1	328	272
January-September	1,510	1,150	979	870	430	398	61	53	5	5	2,990	2,480
1999:												
January	176	132	94	83	50	46	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	329	270
February	178	134	101	88	49	45	8	7	1	1	336	276
March	190	142	112	99	55	51	8	7	1	1	366	300
April	179	135	111	99	56	52	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	356	295
May	181	136	113	100	52	48	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	355	292
June	180	135	116	103	55	51	9	8	1	1	360	297
July	179	134	113	99	50	46	6	5	(3/) r/	(3/) r/	348	285 r/
August	183	137	108	94	60	56	9	8	1	1	361 r/	296
September	183	137	112	99	52	48	7	7	1	1	355	290
January-September	1,630	1,220	980	863	479	445	74	65	4	4	3,170	2,600

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes monthly and annual data.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	152,000	183,000	114,000	137,000
Integrated aluminum companies	112,000	112,000	98,700	98,700
Independent mill fabricators	43,200	51,900	40,000	48,000
Foundries	6,090	7,310	5,530	6,630
Other consumers	418	501	418	501
Total	314,000	355,000	259,000	290,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN
SEPTEMBER 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	35,600	86,900	87,900	34,600
Can stock clippings	4,810	20,400	20,700	4,500
Other clippings	6,530 r/	9,510	9,450	6,590
Borings and turnings	10,600	26,700	26,700	10,600
Dross and skimmings	2,090 r/	40,200	40,200	2,110
Total new scrap	59,600	184,000	185,000	58,400
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	11,800	46,400	46,300	11,900
Aluminum-copper radiators	2,400	2,560	2,450	2,500
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	27,800	68,800	75,000	21,600
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,810	4,670	4,670	2,810
Total old scrap	44,800	122,000	128,000	38,900
Sweated pig	834	962	962	834
Total all classes	105,000	307,000	314,000	98,100

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 1999 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September 3/	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,230	2,550	2,550	3,230	24,400	24,500
380 and variations	14,100	46,700	46,700	14,100	428,000	427,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,800	3,220	3,220	2,800	29,300	29,500
No. 319 and variations	7,880	15,200	15,200	7,880	138,000	138,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,830	4,040	4,040	1,830	37,200	37,200
Al-Zn alloys	447	1,420	1,420	447	12,800	13,300
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	1,510	1,510
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	77	77	--	693	693
Other 4/	6,590	12,800	12,900	6,570	113,000	110,000
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	5,170 r/	16,400	16,700	4,820	145,000	145,000
Total all alloys	42,100	103,000	103,000	41,800	930,000	928,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	5,920	XX	XX	61,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	4,360	XX	XX	40,200	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,030	XX	XX	9,300	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	91,200	XX	XX	819,000	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous months.

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August
Argentina	3,350	15,000	--	1,180	345	2,470	3,700	18,700
Australia	13,200	50,700	259	1,300	--	9	13,500	52,000
Bahrain	2,930	16,200	2,600	16,100	--	--	5,530	32,300
Belgium	--	--	440	2,940	130	177	569	3,120
Brazil	3,130	49,700	283	1,250	831	23,600	4,240	74,500
Canada	134,000	997,000	37,400	285,000	26,600	187,000	198,000	1,470,000
France	28	285	828	7,920	1,340	7,350	2,190	15,600
Germany	71	710	3,560	25,000	1,280	3,720	4,910	29,400
Ghana	--	--	187	1,540	--	--	187	1,540
Hungary	--	--	558	3,130	--	--	558	3,130
Italy	499	2,130	315	2,040	--	518	814	4,690
Japan	18	226	1,680	15,600	35	574	1,730	16,400
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1,270	15,400	--	--	1,270	15,400
Mexico	189	1,370	1,470	10,900	7,250	59,000	8,910	71,300
Netherlands	157	952	222	2,250	681	8,800	1,060	12,000
Norway	464	2,080	1	1,550		61	464	3,690
Russia	44,500	579,000	4,140	40,300	7,220	42,700	55,900	663,000
South Africa	1,010	12,500	446	2,680	32	111	1,490	15,300
Spain	20	188	222	2,430	120	1,570	362	4,180
Sweden	(2/)	1	266	2,340	42	208	309	2,550
Switzerland	57	1,370	38	432	--	258	95	2,060
Tajikistan	--	17,200	--	--	--	--	--	17,200
Ukraine	2,510	23,400	--	--	515	4,240	3,020	27,600
United Arab Emirates	1,210	11,400	--	--	214	1,990	1,430	13,400
United Kingdom	1,250	8,800	1,480	9,900	1,260	15,200	3,980	33,900
Venezuela	8,820	76,900	3,020	10,400	1,680	18,600	13,500	106,000
Other	820	46,000	4,340	31,300	4,510	32,900	9,670	110,000
Total	219,000	1,910,000	65,000	493,000	54,100	411,000	338,000	2,820,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 1999 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	January-		January-		January-		January-	
	August	August	August	August	August	August	August	August
Australia	21	147	153	1,790	--	47	174	1,980
Belgium	1	51	784	8,480	60	111	845	8,640
Brazil	2	25	4,960	34,300	--	11	4,960	34,300
Canada	13,400	95,400	42,900	324,000	13,600	98,300	69,900	518,000
China	--	59	3,500	27,600	4,750	36,300	8,250	64,000
Dominican Republic	--	--	22	1,180	2	2	25	1,180
France	17	127	698	4,540	5	5	720	4,670
Germany	20	1,370	554	4,040	42	75	616	5,480
Hong Kong	12	421	276	2,940	1,120	18,300	1,410	21,700
India	--	214	4	133	--	672	4	1,020
Israel	14	107	243	2,010	--	55	257	2,170
Italy	--	80	233	1,630	7	50	240	1,770
Japan	4,060	37,100	609	7,050	3,150	23,500	7,810	67,700
Korea, Republic of	--	382	1,330	11,100	1,500	20,700	2,830	32,200
Malaysia	--	--	41	429	163	1,190	204	1,620
Mexico	9,670	57,700	12,100	93,100	6,740	36,600	28,500	187,000
Netherlands	--	92	165	933	1	21	166	1,050
Russia	--	4	(2/)	9	--	--	(2/)	13
Saudi Arabia	--	1	1,710	5,320	--	48	1,710	5,370
Singapore	2	35	73	967	91	1,230	166	2,240
Spain	--	--	41	752	4	30	45	782
Sweden	--	4	27	114	--	(2/)	27	118
Taiwan	26	345	1,090	7,800	2,140	22,500	3,260	30,600
Thailand	15	89	154	2,220	--	71	168	2,380
United Kingdom	120	699	1,030	11,900	44	308	1,200	12,900
Venezuela	--	222	1,960	12,800	--	--	1,960	13,000
Other	128	1,350	4,000	30,700	254	3,490	4,380	35,600
Total	27,500	196,000	78,700	598,000	33,600	264,000	140,000	1,060,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.